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## Book Notices.

### PETERS' NIPPUR, OR EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES ON THE EUPHRATES.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Peters' book contains chapters on the following subjects: I. Organizing the Expedition (pp. 1-18); II. Obtaining an Iradé (pp. 19-43); III. Impressions of Constantinople (pp. 44-67); IV. The Discovery of Tiphseh (pp. 68-99); V. The City of Zenobia (pp. 100-121); VI. Deir to 'Anah (pp. 122-151); VII. A City of Pitch (pp. 152-164); VIII. Hit to Baghdad (pp. 165-190); IX. Baghdad and Babylon (pp. 191-219); X. Nippur at Last (pp. 220-241); XI. The First Campaign (pp. 242-278); XII. The Catastrophe (pp. 279-294). Appendices: A, Subscription Paper of the Babylonian Exploration Fund (pp. 295-297); B, First Application for Permission to Excavate (pp. 298-300); C, Iradé Granting Permission to Excavate (pp. 301-302); D, Translation of Turkish Law on Archæological Excavations (pp. 303-309); E, The Geography of the Euphrates (pp. 310-317); F, Wolfe Expedition to Babylonia, being a portion of the diary of William Hayes Ward, Director of the Wolfe Expedition (1884-5) (pp. 318-375).

This book will be welcomed by all oriental students and especially by Assyriologists. It was a little disappointing at first to see (*a*) that this work was not an official publication of *The Expedition of the Babylonian Exploration Fund* or of the University of Pennsylvania, under whose auspices the Expedition was placed; and (*b*) that it was intended for the layman rather than the scholar. We learn, however, that these defects will be remedied in a very short time by an official publication coming from Haynes and Hilprecht. It is a pleasing, well-written narrative of adventures, very much after the style of Lady Anne Blunt's *The Bedawin of the Euphrates*. The author's task was a *very* difficult one. He has been very frank in his statements—too frank, perhaps, in many places. He has tried to do justice to the other members of the Expedition. In a great measure, he has succeeded. In some things, however, he has failed.

There are mistakes of omission and commission. Among the former the following may be noted:

(1) The omission of the Bibliography of the subject. The greater part of this could have been obtained from Hilprecht's *The Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania. Series A: Cuneiform*

<sup>1</sup> NIPPUR, OR EXPLORATIONS AND ADVENTURES ON THE EUPHRATES. The Narrative of the University of Pennsylvania Expedition to Babylonia in the years 1888-1890. By John Punnett Peters, Ph.D., Sc.D., D.D., Director of the Expedition. With illustrations and maps. Vol. I. First Campaign. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons; The Knickerbocker Press, 1897. xv+375 pp.

*Texts*, Vol. I., Part I., p. 45—a book published for scholars and not accessible to the layman. Since then have appeared Part II. (1896) of Vol. I. and *American Excavations at Nuffar (Recent Research in Bible Lands)* (1896) by Hilprecht and articles, more or less technical, by members of the Expedition and others. Hilprecht's classified Bibliography consists for the most part of popular, non-technical articles and it is given in full in a footnote.<sup>1</sup> During the past few years, a great number of unscholarly popular articles have been written by unscholarly men, to which it would be undignified to refer.

(2) The omission of a chapter on the Joseph Shemtob Collections (J. S. I. and J. S. II.) purchased in London and the so-called Kh (Khabaza) Collection purchased in Baghdād, giving a description, with photographs, of some of the most important objects and a short catalogue of the rest in nonpareil. Cf. *HEBRAICA*, Vol. V., pp. 74–76; Vol. VI., pp. 59, 60.

(3) The omission of a short chapter or appendix by Hilprecht on the *Nahr-el-Kelb*. Some of his results and experiences have been given in *The Sunday School Times*.

(4) The omission of appendices on *Zinjirli*, *Marash*, *Carchemish*, *Jebel Siman*, etc. Field and I, with Mustapha and one muleteer, spent October 18 to 22, inclusive, in a trip from *Aintab* to *Zinjirli*, camping on the mound where the Germans had excavated, and where they were to excavate during the following season, thirty-six hours. Field made a rough but fairly accurate sketch of the trenches and I examined the finds left in the trenches. The hospitality of a large Kurdish encampment in the vicinity was foolishly refused and we learned on the next day through an American missionary doctor that the Sheikh had with the greatest difficulty kept his followers from raiding us. On Sunday, the 20th, in the company of this doctor, we made a visit to the Sheikh and drank coffee and smoked a *nargileh* with him. His son was sick

<sup>1</sup> I. JOHN P. PETERS.

1. Letter on the Babylonian Expedition: *The American Journal of Archaeology*, VII., pp. 472–475. 2. A Brief Statement concerning the Babylonian Expedition sent out under the auspices of the University of Pennsylvania: *Proceedings of the American Oriental Society*, April 21–23, 1892, pp. cxlvi–cliii. 3. Notes on Mürdet-Delitzsch's Geschichte: *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*, VI., pp. 333–339. 4. A Few Ancient Sites, I. and II.: *The Nation*, 1889, May 23, p. 423, and May 30, pp. 442, 443. 5. From Niffer to Tello, I. and II.: *ibid.*, 1889, July 25, pp. 69, 70, and August 1, pp. 90–92. 6. Zenobia, Palmyra, and the Arabs: *ibid.*, 1890, April 3, pp. 276, 277. 7. A Misrepresented Ruin *ibid.*, 1891, May 7, pp. 375–377.

II. H. V. HILPRECHT.

1. Keilinschriftliche Funde in Niffer: *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*, IV., pp. 164–168. 2. Aus einem Briefe desselben an C. Bezold: *ibid.*, IV., pp. 282–284. 3. Die jüngsten Ausgrabungen in Babylonien: *Kölnische Zeitung*, 1889, June 30, No. 179. 4. Neue Forschungen in Babylonien: Luthardt's *Evangelisch Lutherische Kirchenzeitung*, 1889, June 14, pp. 568, 569. 5. The Mouth of the Nahr-el-Kelb: *The Sunday School Times*, 1889, Vol. XXXI., No. 11, p. 163. 6. Die Inschriften Nebukadnezar's im Wadi Brissa; Luthardt's *Zeitschrift für kirchliche Wissenschaft und kirchliches Leben*, 1889, IX., pp. 491–498. Compare also *The Sunday School Times*, 1889, Vol. XXXI., No. 35, pp. 547, 548: The Inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar in the Wady Brissa. 7. Shaykh of Zeta. *The Sunday School Times*, 1890, Vol. XXXII., No. 10, pp. 147, 148. 8. Babylon: *ibid.*, 1892, Vol. XXXIV., No. 20, pp. 306, 318. 9. Die Votivinschrift eines nicht erkannten

with a fever and our party, through the doctor again, was able to minister unto him and to leave with him a supply of quinine, thereby gaining the favor of the Sheikh and his men.

Later, after our return to *Aintab*, where we were the guests of Mr. Riggs, Professor in the Central Turkey College, Haynes, Field and I with Mustapha as servant, went to *Marash* (fifteen hours' ride over a very rough country) to take squeezes of some Hittite monuments placed at our disposal by the missionaries. The squeezes were successfully taken, as well as several photographs, but I have never heard of them since. It was here that I first came to know the Oriental fever and our return to *Aintab* was delayed two days in consequence.

After remaining in *Aintab* a few more days, Haynes, Field and I, with the servants, decided to go to *Aleppo* in order to be more easily reached by the Director, who was in *Constantinople*. We concluded to visit *Carchemish* on the way. Our small caravan started on a Friday evening, cold and wet, and we reached the mound on the following evening. We spent Sunday exploring and taking notes, and Mr. Haynes, who had visited the mound four years before in company with Dr. William Hayes Ward, of the Wolfe Expedition, found many changes. Some reliefs had been broken by the Arabs and others had been partially destroyed by the weather. It is very much better not to excavate than to excavate and leave the finds to the mercy of the Arabs and the storms.

On Monday morning we left *Carchemish* for *Aleppo*, arriving Tuesday evening, and were the guests of Doctor and Mrs. Graham until the Saturday before Thanksgiving, on which day Haynes, Field and I left *Aleppo* for the *Jebel Siman* district. This was the hardest of all our travels. The trip down the Euphrates, although three times as long, was not so exhausting. It rained every day. Three days out we were arrested for carrying guns and traveling without *Zaptiehs* and were

Kassitenkönigs: *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*, VII., pp. 305-308. 10. König Ini-Sin von Ur: *ibid.*, VII., pp. 343-346. 11. Die Ergänzung der Namen zweier Kassitenkönige *ibid.* 12. Zur Lapislazuli Frage im Babylonischen: *ibid.*

### III. ROBERT FRANCIS HARPER.

1. Babylonian Letter.—The Joseph Shemtob Collection of Babylonian Antiquities recently purchased for the University of Pennsylvania: *HEBRAICA*, V., pp. 74-76.
2. The Kh. Collection of Babylonian Antiquities belonging to the University of Pennsylvania: *ibid.*, VI., pp. 59, 60. 3. The Destruction of Antiquities in the East: *ibid.*, VI., pp. 225, 226. 4. Three Contract Tablets of Ashurtililani: *ibid.*, VII., p. 79. 5. A Visit to Zinjirli: *The Old and New Testament Student*, VIII., pp. 183, 184. 6. A Visit to Carchemish: *ibid.*, IX., pp. 308, 309. 7. Down the Euphrates Valley, I-III: *ibid.*, X., pp. 55-57; 118, 119; 367, 368. 8. The Expedition of the Babylonian Exploration Fund, A, B, C: *ibid.*, XIV., pp. 160-165; 213-217; XV., pp. 12-16; D: *The Biblical World*, I., pp. 57-62. 9. Aus einem Briefe desselben an C. Bezold: *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*, IV., pp. 163, 164. Compare also *HEBRAICA*, VIII., pp. 103, 104: A-bi-e-shu' = Ebishum. 10. The Site of Old Baghdad: *The Academy*, 1889, February 23, p. 139. 11. A New Babylonian Contract: *ibid.*, 1889, April 20, p. 274.

### IV. THEOPHILUS G. PINCHES (based upon communications from Dr. Peters and Dr. Harper).

1. An Early Babylonian Inscription from Niffer: *HEBRAICA*, VI., pp. 55-58. 2. The Discoveries of the American Expedition to Babylonia: *The Academy*, 1891, September 5, p. 199. Compare also his note "Kadashman": *ibid.*, 1891, September 12, p. 221.

brought to trial. Haynes, as usual, got us off. On one night, we lost our way, our baggage and our servants, and, after wandering on the mountain until darkness set in, we were about to hunt shelter in the rocks, when we discovered a light in the distance. After fifteen minutes' scrambling over rocks, we came to a Druse village, *Qalb Louzeh*, where we were entertained (?) for the night. We had eggs swimming in fat for our supper, the floor, which we shared with the vermin, for a bed, and our damp, cold riding-suits for covering. In the morning, we found our servants and continued our journey. With fever every night and little to eat during the day, riding over the mountains in heavy and continuous rain-storms, we finally reached *Edlib*. Here we left our head-muleteer who was delirious with the fever. Our servants were ill and we served them rather than being served by them. After a consultation, we decided to return to *Aleppo* by the nearest route, and we arrived on December 1st, Haynes going to Dr. Graham and Field and myself to the only Christian hotel—*Azizieh*. It was here that, a few days later, the rest of the party joined us. The sweeping statement (p. 37): "The result of their (Haynes, Field and Harper) two and a half months in northern Syria was nothing" is of a piece with several other incorrect and, one must say, egotistical statements. Dr. Peters founds this statement on the fact that Haynes's photographs proved a failure. If the results of the Expedition are to be measured by the photographs, then the whole affair from start to finish must be regarded as a failure and one might say that the result of the Expedition "was nothing." The reviewer in *The Independent* (July 29, 1897) remarks: "Most of the valuable pictures are from the photographs of the previous Wolfe Expedition, for which general credit is given in the Introduction." The same test should be applied to the latter part of the trip in Mesopotamia as to the first two months and one-half in northern Syria.

(5) The omission of a minute account of each day's journey down the Euphrates; *cf.* the Diary of Dr. Ward and my *Down the Euphrates Valley*.<sup>1</sup> This description could have been made very interesting and exceedingly valuable.

(6) The omission of a description of the finds at Nippur; *cf.* Hilprecht, *The Babylonian Expedition*. Little—practically nothing—is said of the *real results* of the Expedition. These are only a few of the important omissions. Scholars would certainly be more interested in such topics than in a long *excursus* on Constantinople.

Dr. Peters has entered into too many details. One doubts the advisability of informing the world of (1) the opposition developed in Philadelphia and Baltimore before the complete organization of the Expedition. He should have said more or nothing. As it is, some of the gentlemen hinted at may think that they are challenged to tell the *whole* story, and I am inclined to think that many unpleasant things would come to light if this were done. Most scholars know something

<sup>1</sup> *Old and New Testament Student*, X. 55-57; 118, 119; 367, 368; XIV. 160-165; 213-217; XV. 12-16; *Biblical World*, I. 57-62.

about these troublous times. Perhaps the time has come for them to know the details.

(2) It is certainly doubtful taste to inform the Turkish government, after the grant of an *Irade*, how the members of the Expedition fooled the Turkish custom-house officers and broke the Turkish laws by towing their guns under water to a point opposite the custom-house, landing them under cover of darkness, and sending them to the Protestant church at *Beilan*. It was very cleverly done and it seemed necessary to do it, but it was unnecessary to inform the Turks. Such tales as these will not be of any great assistance to the next American expedition, nor will they advance the interests of the missionaries, who are already in bad repute among the Turks for similar acts of interference. This leads one to say that there are two sides to the Armenian question. In this country and in "Christian England" we hear of only one. The Armenians are, in every sense of the word, rebels and the missionaries are their abettors. If they rebel against the government, and if that government happens to be a cruel one, they must take the cruel consequences. The Jews and Stundists in Russia have a very much better case against the Russian government than the Armenians against the Turks. One must acknowledge that the massacres do seem rather cruel to an Occidental, but Christian Spain is as bad an offender in this line as Mohammedan Turkey.

(3) It was unnecessary to state that a member of the Expedition wished to resign in Aleppo. There were two, in fact, and perhaps three. Field and I were the two, and we had good reasons. The Director did not deign to take the members of the Expedition into his confidence and inform them of the contents of the *Firman*. I went to him, acting for Field also, and told him that I must have a general idea of the contents of the *Firman* or I should resign and go back to the British Museum. His information was not as satisfactory as it might have been, but when I learned that we had permission to *excavate* as well as to explore, nothing further was said by either Field or myself. The director did invite the members of the Expedition, ten days before the Arab raid on the camp and the enforced closing of the season of excavation, to the dining tent to listen to a translation of the *Firman*. With the exception of Haynes, who, with Noorian, had made the translation, we remained in our tents. We had lived from December first till April first without a knowledge of the contents of the *Firman*, and we decided that we could continue for two weeks longer. Perhaps Dr. Peters would not have failed to win the confidence of his comrades (p. 288) if he had placed a little more confidence in them. I know that for a long time Hilprecht and I were not aware of our respective positions on the Expedition and that we were finally obliged to take the matter into our own hands and settle it for ourselves. I do not care to blame Dr. Peters for the troubles of the first year. He had a difficult position to fill, and we were, perhaps, a difficult body of men to manage. I do know, however, that if he had been as frank in his treatment of us as he is in certain pages of his book, things

would have been otherwise. There are only two ways to rule an expedition: (1) The Director must have military authority and rule as a dictator, or (2) he must gain the full confidence of the men by placing full confidence in them, and rule by general permission. Neither of these plans was tried and hence the Director's influence was practically nothing.

(4) The public is taken into the confidence of the Director in too many places where he admits his inability to get on with the other members of the Expedition. More confidence in the men and less in the public would have been better for the Expedition.

Dr. Peters belittles the results of the first year in order to gain more credit for himself during the second. Some of the statements on page 288 are absolutely incorrect. I do not think that the members of the Expedition "felt that the excavations had not yielded satisfactory results, and that Nippur was not a promising site for further work." During the last two weeks of our stay at Nippur, more tablets were taken out than during the first ten weeks—many more than could be catalogued. I am not in a position to speak for Hilprecht, but I do know that my reasons for resigning were strictly personal. I recognized the danger of returning to Nippur but never for a moment doubted that it was an important site on which to make excavations. If I remember correctly, Hilprecht had made his arrangements to remain one year only and was carrying out his original plan when he resigned after the first year. Field resigned on my advice. There was a rumor that he was to be asked for his resignation before he could resign of his own accord. I hurried to his hotel—we were in Baghdād and he was not traveling with the rest of the party because of his relations with the Director—and asked him to write it and send his body servant with it at once to the Director. He did so. The cablegram mentioned on p. 289 instructed Dr. Peters to retain Harper and not Hilprecht, the latter having arranged to remain one year only. I did not see the cablegram nor did the Director inform me of its contents. Noorian and Haynes told me that I had been ordered to remain in Baghdād. I could not remain without official notification from the Director. This did not come and hence Field, Hilprecht and I planned to go up the Euphrates valley together. Later the Director informed us that he would join us. Field then decided to make the trip alone accompanied by a servant and one *Zaptieh*. He started two or three days in advance of our party and we often heard of him on our way to the coast. After my arrival in London, I received orders by cable to remain quiet and be ready to go back to the Orient. My letter with orders from the Committee, sent to Baghdād, reached me in London a little later. In this the plans for the second year's campaign were set forth in some detail and I was advised to spend the summer in the Lake Van district and ordered back to excavate in the Autumn.

I do not agree with Dr. Peters that the first year was a failure. Much more might have been accomplished, but a great deal was accomplished

It is not necessary to go into details. This will be done, I understand, by Hilprecht and Haynes, and all Assyriologists will await with interest the second volume which is to come from them.

In conclusion, I wish again to say that the position of Director of the Expedition was a most difficult one, that the story of the Expedition was a most difficult one to tell, that, while the Director did not do all that he might have done, the same may truthfully be said of each member of the Expedition. I have written frankly, following the example of the Director, and with all its errors of omission and commission, I can honestly recommend this book to all those who are interested in Oriental travels and explorations and excavations in Babylonia. My only regret now is that there was so much contention among the members of the Expedition and that this contention has reached the public.

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### PERLES' ANALEKTEN.<sup>1</sup>

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This modest little pamphlet of ninety-four pages is a most important contribution to the text criticism of the Old Testament; and coming at a time when special attention is being accorded to the Hebrew text, with a view to securing greater correctness, it is most timely.

Perles begins by discussing the use of abbreviations in the Talmud and in later Hebrew MSS. Incidentally, in commenting on a curious Talmudic rule, which forbids the writing on the Sabbath day of **א א**, which, as he shows, was an abbreviation of **אמן אמן**, he notices a similar abbreviation on a Carthaginian votive inscription. The most extreme use of abbreviation which he has found occurs in two fragments of Bible MSS. from Egypt, in which the first word of each verse is written in full, but only one letter of each following word. He shows that this method of abbreviation is referred to in the Talmud, and the question considered there whether portions of the Bible so abbreviated might be used for purposes of instruction. He then puts the question: "Since when have the Jews made use of abbreviations, and is it possible that they employed them in their old Bible MSS.?"

Kennicott, followed by Michaelis, Jahn, and others, had already answered this question in the affirmative. Reifmann had also reached the same conclusion, but had applied the principle too broadly, finding abbreviations everywhere, and discrediting his work by his lack of balance. Unfortunately, also, he wrote in Hebrew. Good examples of abbreviations adduced by him are: 2 Kgs. 6:27, **א** for **אם**; Isa. 42:2, **ישא** for **ישאנ**; Ps. 89:51, **כל** for **כלבית**; Job 22:11, **א** for **אור**.

Lagarde says that in the Hebrew text from which the LXX. was translated **ה**, **ס** and **ת** at the end of a word were not written, but indicated

<sup>1</sup> ANALEKTEN ZUR TEXTKRITIK DES ALTEN TESTAMENT, von Dr. Felix Perles. München: Theodor Ackermann, 1895.